NYTimes 13 Sep 67
ABM
Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP70B00338R000300100114-8

SOVIET PLAN LIFTS HOPES FOR A-PACT

Disarmament Aides Suggest Inspection Compromise

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 — State Department officials reported today thatSoviet disarmament negotiators had advanced a compromise proposal on international inspection that might help break the long deadlock on a treaty to halt the spread of nuclear arms.

The Soviet proposal, advance in recent days at the Geneva isarmament Conference, resulted in a flurry of activity and some hope in the Administration that the one problem standing in the way of a treaty might be solved.

Adrian S. Fisher, the Deputy Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, left for Paris late today to brief members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's council on the Soviet proposal.

No Agreement Yet

The Administration, in the hope that it would not upset the delicate negotiations, ordered the strictest secrecy about the details of the Soviet move. The call for secrecy extended to Congressional disarmament specialists who had been briefed on the Soviet move.

However, the disarmament agency acknowledged that there had been a compromise move by the Soviet Union in explaining, in answer to questions, the purpose of Mr. Fisher's unnanounced trip.

"We are consulting with our allies about possible formulations for Article III, which we have discussed with the Russians," a disarmament agency spokesman said. "There is as yet, however, no agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union on Article III."

Article III concerns inspections, the only major subject in the treaty on which the United States and the Soviet Union still differ.

After more than three years of negotiation at Geneva, the two major powers agreed on the text of a draft treaty late last month, but they left blank the article that would outline the inspection procedures to be used to insure that a nation was not developing or acquiring atomic weapons or using diverting peaceful atomic projects for military purposes. During the last year, positions on both sides on the inspection issue have shifted, then hardened.

Soviet Adopts a U.S. Stand

The Soviet Union, after first expressing uninterest in any requirements for inspection, has adopted an earlier American position and insisted that if there is to be mandatory inspection of the nonnuclear powers, as proposed by the United States, it should be carried out by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

Because of objections by some of its European allies, the United States has modified its proposal to permit, at least during a transitional period, inspection by regional groups, such as the European Atomic Energy Community, which inspects atomic activities in member countries — France, West Germany, the Netherland, Belgium, Italy and Luxembourg.

This American proposal for interim inspection by Euratom has been unacceptable to the Soviet Union, which contends that Euratom Is a "tool" of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. There are some indications, however, that the Soviet Union is shifting its position on incorporating Euratom into the treaty's inspection system.

According to United States officials, the Soviet proposal needs clarification. The officials emphasized that while the United States was consulting with its allies, it had not taken a position on the proposal.

The Soviet proposal, as interpreted by United States officials, attempts to open the door to the inclusion of Euratom by proposing that groups of nations can make appropriate arrangements with the International Atomic Energy Agency to carry out the inspections under the treaty.

One disarmament official said: "What they seem to be trying to do, without saying it openly, is to recognize that Euratom exists."

U.S. Backed Pastore Idea

One optimistic interpretation of the Soviet proposal was that Moscow, in imprecise terms, was attempting to open the door to a compromise along the lines proposed earlier this year by Senator John O. Pastore, Democrat of Rhode Island and chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy. The Pastore proposal called for continuing inspection by such regional groups as Euratom, but with their inspection subject to supervision and verification by the larger group, a specialized agency of the United Nations.

The Administration has expressed some interest in the Pastore approach, but has hesitated to endorse it too enthusiastically because of the sensitivities of some of the European allies about having Euratom subject to verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP70B00338R000300100114-8